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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|

09/176,171 10/21/98 CHENG

D PHA23.503

WM51/1025

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EXAMINER

PHAM, T

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2632

DATE MAILED:

10/25/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/176,171

Applicant(s)
Cheng

Examiner
TOAN PHAM

Group Art Unit
2632



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 17-34 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 17-34 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 17-20, 25-31 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valiulis (6,005,476) in view of Rietkerk (5,748,083) (of record).

Regarding claim 17: Valiulis discloses a security system for the appliances such as a television set (56), a video player (58), a stereo (60) and a computer printer (62) are plugged into a distributed network (54) which a plurality of these appliances communicates to effect a control of the appliances (col. 7, lines 53-63; Fig. 3), a first appliances (56) of the plurality of appliances having a first appliance component that is configured to effect a primary function of the first appliance that is independent of security (see Fig. 3) Valiulis does not disclose the security system comprising a status reporter. Rietkerk discloses a security system comprising a status reporter (117) for communicating a status of the first appliance (107) via the network (4); an alarm activation processor (112, 113), operably coupled to the status reporter (117), for receiving the status and effecting an alarm response dependent on the status (col. 4, lines 23-29; col. 5, lines 42-53, 64-67; col. 6, lines 1-2; Figs. 1A, 1B and 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a

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person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilized a status reporter as taught by Rietkerk in a system as disclosed by Valiulis for providing the status of the appliance within the network and for providing operation information as well as security information.

Regarding claim 18: Rietkerk discloses the second appliance (107) with a second appliance component for effecting a second primary function independent of security; and the alarm activation processor is integrated in the second appliance (see Figs. 1A, 1B and 2).

Regarding claims 19 and 20: Valiulis does not disclose a respective HAVi and Home API-compliant module; however, Valiulis discloses an interactive appliance security system including security devices such as a television set (56), a video player (58), a stereo (60) and a computer printer (62) are plugged into a distributed network (54) which a plurality of these appliances communicates to effect a control of the appliances (col. 7, lines 53-63; Fig. 3) which are home and office systems that are programmed and interfaced to work with one another to provide a security monitoring system. Thus, these devices are programmed to work in compliance with one another. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a security system for the home or office in protecting the appliances with programming capability.

Regarding claim 25: Rietkerk discloses the appliance being an asset (107) to be protected includes a desktop computer, a notebook computer, a laptop computer, a printer, a keyboard, a computer monitor, etc. (col. 4, lines 44-54; Fig. 2); thus, Rietkerk discloses a plurality of appliances having an alarm activation processor (141), operably coupled to the status reporter

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(117), for receiving the status and effecting the alarm response dependent on the status and dependent upon the rule base associated with the appliance (col. 4, lines 23-29; col. 5, lines 42-53, 64-67; col. 6, lines 1-2; Figs. 1A, 1B, 2, 3 and 4). Thus, the rule base is to identify whether the event is an alarm detection condition (e.g. motion or circuit disruption) or a tamper condition (e.g. APD removal/intrusion, or cord damage) and to notify security personnel to the location of the alarm and/or tamper condition (col. 5, lines 42-53, 64-67; col. 6, lines 1-2).

Regarding claim 26: See claim 17 above.

Regarding claims 27 and 28: See claims 19 and 20 above.

Regarding claim 29: See claim 17 above.

Regarding claims 30 and 31: See claims 19 and 20 above.

Regarding claim 33: See claim 25 above.

3. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valiulis (6,005,476) in view of Rietkerk (5,748,083) (of record) as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Hall et al. (5,898,831) (of record).

Regarding claim 21: Rietkerk discloses the appliance security system in which a plurality of appliances interacts with one another responsive to the security conditions (col. 14, lines 37-54; col. 15, lines 23-35); thus, the process is inherent of the third appliance (C) having a second alarm activation processor from the second appliance (B), and is inherently operably coupled to the status reporter via the network in which these appliances communicate, for receiving the status

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and effecting a second alarm response dependent on the status. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the linking of the alarm activation processor as taught by Hall et al. in a system as disclosed by Valiulis in view of Rietkerk for providing an alarm notification for the appliances within a network.

Regarding claim 22: Hall et al. discloses the second alarm response is dependent upon a status of the second appliance (col. 14, lines 37-54).

Regarding claim 23: Rietkerk discloses an alarm activation processor (112), operably coupled to the status reporter (117), for receiving the status and effecting an alarm response dependent on the status and dependent upon a rule base associated with the first appliance (col. 4, lines 23-29; col. 5, lines 42-53, 64-67; col. 6, lines 1-2; Figs. 1A, 1B and 2). The second alarm processor (113) is further configured to effect the second alarm response dependent upon a second rule base associated with the first appliance. Thus, the rule base is to identify whether the event is an alarm detection condition (e.g. motion or circuit disruption) or a tamper condition (e.g. APD removal/intrusion, or cord damage) and to notify security personnel to the location of the alarm and/or tamper condition (col. 5, lines 42-53, 64-67; col. 6, lines 1-2).

4. Claims 24 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Valiulis (6,005,476) in view of Rietkerk (5,748,083) (of record) as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Le Van Suu (5,714,933) (of record). Valiulis in view of Rietkerk as modified teaches

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all the claimed subject matter as set forth above in the rejection of claim 17, but still does not teach an area security device that is configured to detect a status of an area. Le Van Suu discloses an area security device (13) for detecting an area status of area wherein the activation processor is also operably coupled to the area security device (13) and further effects each alarm response dependent on the area status (col. 4, lines 8-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide an area security device as taught by Le Van Suu in a system as disclosed by Valiulis in view of Rietkerk to provide a detector for monitoring the surrounding area of the electronic appliances and for the purpose of providing additional security by monitoring intrusion into the area of the protected appliances.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hall et al. (5,898,831) (of record).

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Regarding claim 34: Hall et al. discloses an interactive appliance security system comprising the steps of storing a rule base associated with the first appliance (A) at a second appliance (B), communicating a status of the first appliance to the second appliance via a network facilitates a control of the appliances, determining an alarm response at the second appliance based on the rule base and the status of the first appliance, wherein the first appliance has a first appliance function that is independent of security and the second appliance has a second appliance function that is independent of security (col. 14, lines 37-54; col. 15, lines 22-44).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The prior art references of Labun (5,710,712), Lea et al. (6,032,202), Barritt (4,703,306) and Tanaka et al. (5,420,573) are cited to show a variety of appliance and control through network connections.

8. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051 or (703) 305-3988, (for formal communications intended for entry)

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Or:

(703) 305-3988 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal
Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

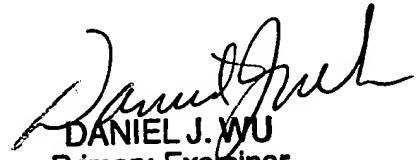
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Examiner Toan Pham at
telephone number (703) 306-3038. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday,
7:00am-5:00pm.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,
Jeffery Hofsass, can be reached on (703) 305-4717.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be
directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-8576, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-
5:00pm.

Examiner: Toan Pham

Date: October 19, 2000


DANIEL J. WU
Primary Examiner
10/21/00